

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01 OMB-01

DPW-01 DRC-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-11 SSO-00 /193 W

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R 150818Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9138

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARN ICRC VN OAU

SUBJ: GENEVA CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR

REF: STATE 027026

1. IN FEBRUARY 12 CALL BY DCM, FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR FREITAS CRUZ EXPRESSED GOP APPREHENSION OVER FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE AND PRESENTED DCM WITH AIDE MEMOIRE (INTENDED FOR SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS) OUTLINING GOP POSITION. HE SAID PORTUGAL WOULD OF COURSE PREFER THAT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, PARTICULARLY PAIGC, NOT BE PERMITTED ATTEND CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, GOP RECOGNIZES THIS A VAIN HOPE. FREITAS CRUZ SAID GOP SEEKS TO PREVENT DIRECT PARTICIPATION BY LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND TO CONFINE THEM TO STATUS OF OBSERVERS. HE ADDED GOP PLANS TO STAY TO END OF *ONFERENCE DESPITE EXPECTED PRESENCE OF LIBERATION MOVEMENT REPS, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS GOP WILL REFUSE TO SIGN FINAL ACT. DCM PRODUCED MEMO BASED ON REFTEL, WHICH CLEARLY IN LINE WITH GOP VIEWPOINT.

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2. FREITAS CRUZ THEN NOTED TWO MATTERS IN CONFERENCE

ON WHICH GOP HOPES FOR US SUPPORT. ON THE FIRST, HE SAID GOP HOPES THAT INSURGENCY IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA WOULD NOT BE DESIGNATED AS "INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT" UNDER TERMS OF GENEVA CONVENTIONS. ON SECOND ITEM HE SAID GOP HOPES STATUS OF PRISONERS OF WAR WOULD NOT BE EXTENDED TO CAPTURED INSURGENTS IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA.

3. DCM SAID HE HAD NO INDICATION OF OUR POSITION ON THESE ISSUES, BUT SUSPECTED THAT WE MIGHT BE IN AGREEMENT WITH GOP. HE ADDED RE US STAND: ON MATTERS WHERE VAST MAJORITY LIKELY TO BE ON OTHER SIDE, US POSITION MIGHT DEPEND ON (A) HOW IMPORTANT WE FELT IT WAS TO STAND ON PRINCIPLE, AS OPPOSED TO (B) POSSIBILITY OUR POSITION ON THESE MATTERS MIGHT PREJUDICE SUPPORT WE WERE SEEKING ON OTHER MATTERS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE. FREITAS CRUZ RECOGNIZED THAT THIS POSITION REASONABLE.

4. PLEASE ADVISE RE US POSITION ITEMS RAISED PARA 2 ABOVE.
SCOTT

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Message Attributes

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